

**Submission
No 310**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF PRIMATES AND OTHER ANIMALS
IN MEDICAL RESEARCH IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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Cruelty to animals, also called animal abuse, animal neglect or animal cruelty, is defined as the infliction by omission (neglect) or by commission by humans of suffering or harm upon any animal.

Animal testing is defined as procedures performed on living animals for purposes of research into basic biology and diseases, assessing the effectiveness of new medicinal products, and testing the human health and/or environmental safety of consumer and industry products such as cosmetics, household cleaners, food additives, pharmaceuticals and industrial/agro-chemicals.

Common procedures include

- * Forced chemical exposure in toxicity testing, which can include oral force-feeding, forced inhalation, skin or injection into the abdomen, muscle, et
- * Exposure to drugs, chemicals or infectious disease at levels that cause illness, pain and distress, or death
- * Infliction of wounds, burns and other injuries to study healing
- * Infliction of pain to study its physiology and treatment
- * Behavioural experiments designed to cause distress, e.g., electric shock or forced swimming
- * Other manipulations to create “animal models” of human diseases ranging from cancer to stroke to depression
- * Genetic manipulation, e.g., addition or “knocking out” of one or more gene
- * Prolonged periods of physical restraint
- * Food and water deprivation
- * Surgical procedures followed by recovery
- * Euthanasia by carbon dioxide asphyxiation, neck-breaking, decapitation, or other means

It is impossible to permit animal testing and uphold the laws and ethics of prevention of cruelty to animals at the same time. All procedures, even those classified as “mild,” have the potential to cause the animals physical as well as psychological distress and suffering. Often the procedures can cause a great deal of suffering.

With thousands of cosmetic companies applying for cruelty free and vegan status, it demonstrates a clear shift in consumer needs and expectations.

Medical practices during the early 20th century included bloodletting, blistering, and high doses of mineral poisons. These medical regimens are now considered ineffective, unethical and barbaric. I feel animal experimentation will fall into this category in hopefully the very near future.